

**Abstract 382****TITLE:** The Efficacy of an HIV Intervention for the Seriously Mentally Ill**AUTHORS:** The NIMH Multisite HIV Prevention Trial Group**BACKGROUND:** The HIV seroprevalence among the seriously mentally ill (SMI) has emerged at about 6% nationally, documenting the need for efficacious interventions with this population.**METHODS:** At outpatient mental health clinics in Los Angeles and New York City, screening was conducted to identify 100 seriously mentally ill persons who had more than one sexual partner or a new sexual partner with whom they had unprotected sex in the previous 3 months. Most were male (80%), and 23% were under the age of 31 years; 31% had less than a high school education. They were recruited and randomly assigned to receive: 1) Project LIGHT, a seven-session HIV intervention based on a cognitive behavioral theoretical model; or 2) a one-session control condition in which participants viewed and discussed an HIV prevention video. The program was evaluated with assessments at recruitment and 3, 6, and 12 months later. Follow-up interviews were conducted with 86% of the participants.**RESULTS:** Across 1 year, there were significantly fewer unprotected sexual risk acts ( $p < .001$ ) among those in the intervention condition ( $M @ 12 \text{ months} = 6.5$ ) than in the control condition ( $M @ 12 \text{ months} = 11.1$ ). In addition, the proportion of condom use ( $p < .0004$ ) and the percentage of participants reporting consistent condom use ( $p < .01$ ) was significantly lower based on the interaction of ethnicity and intervention condition. African-Americans in the intervention condition were significantly more likely to report improvement on these indices (e.g., %, of condom use among African-Americans, intervention condition = 74% vs 46% among non-African-Americans in the control condition). The results were similar across site and gender groups.**CONCLUSIONS:** The Project LIGHT intervention, which was demonstrated as efficacious with low income African-American and Latino persons at high risk for HIV (NIMH Multisite HIV Prevention Trial Group, 1998) is also efficacious with SMI. Replication and dissemination of the Project LIGHT intervention appears warranted, as well as identifying the key factors responsible for the positive outcomes.**PRESENTER CONTACT INFORMATION****Name:** Mary Jane Roheram-Borus, Ph.D.**Address:** UCLA Wilshire Center, 10920 Wilshire, Suite 350  
Los Angeles, CA 90024**Telephone:** (310) 794-8280**Fax:** (310) 794-8297**E-mail:** rotheram@ucla.edu